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INDIA:

Widening Conflict in Punjab

The assault by Indian Army troops yesterday on the Sikh temple compound in Amritsar is causing new resistance. [REDACTED]

The government has announced that troops gained control of the 15-acre temple complex in which extremists were barricaded. Extremist leader Bhindranwale was found dead in a basement bunker, according to press sources. Some 300 Sikh militants died and 450 were captured. Government spokesmen said troops also carried out operations at 47 other Sikh temples as well as Hindu and Muslim shrines in the state. [REDACTED]

The press reports that elsewhere in Punjab some Sikhs retaliated for the actions against temples by attacking Hindus in the countryside. Sikhs in Delhi, perhaps 700,000 strong, are threatening a campaign to protest against the arrest in Punjab of the leader of the Sikh Akali Dal Party. Sikhs in London and Vancouver have attacked Indian diplomatic installations. [REDACTED]

Comment: Prime Minister Gandhi's decision to use the Army in Punjab signals her commitment to ending the violence at any cost.

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The assaults on shrines, however, may unite Sikhs against the government and widen the conflict. The continuation of shoot-on-sight curfews, a news blackout, a ban on travel, and sealed borders emphasizes the Army's readiness to deal with protracted resistance.

[REDACTED]